

F 614

.F7 NY

COPY 2

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 495 898 6

F 614
.F7 N4
Copy 2

FORT SNELLING.

MINNESOTA

WHILE IN COMMAND OF COL. JOSIAH SNELLING.
FIFTH INFANTRY.

By REV. EDWARD D. NEILL, D. D.

Reprinted from MAGAZINE OF WESTERN HISTORY
1888

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, located in the center of the page.

FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA,

WHILE IN COMMAND OF COLONEL JOSIAH SNELLING,
FIFTH INFANTRY.

BEFORE the organization of the territory of Minnesota in 1849, Fort Snelling was the sole nucleus of civilization in the Valley of the Upper Mississippi, beyond the mouth of the Wisconsin river. Here every scientific explorer, adventurous trader and Christian missionary tarried a little while before entering a wilderness only occupied by warring savages.

Beautifully located on a bold promontory at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, its picturesque appearance has frequently been sketched by the artist. Among its commandants have been some of the most efficient officers of the United States army.

The brave lieutenant, subsequently general, Zebulon M. Pike,* who was killed

during the last war with Great Britain, was the first American officer who visited the region, and on the island in front of the fort, which appropriately bears his name, under orders from his superior, General Wilkinson, on the twenty-second of September, 1805, held a council with the Sioux, informed them that the Spaniards had ceded to the United States the territory of Louisiana in which they dwelt, and that he had visited them to secure a piece of land where the President could send officers and soldiers who would protect them from the wrongs of traders and the attacks of their Indian foes. As a result of the conference, an agreement was signed the next day by which the Sioux, for a certain sum, conveyed to the United States, for the establishment of military posts, nine miles square at the mouth of St. Croix; also, from below the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peter's, now Minnesota river, up the Mississippi, to include the Falls of St. Anthony, extending nine miles on each side of the river.

At that time British traders in the

* Z. M. Pike was the son of Captain Pike of the War of the Revolution. He was born in January, 1779, at South Trenton, New Jersey. In March, 1799, he was second lieutenant of Second infantry, and at this time first lieutenant of First regiment; captain, August, 1809. Major Sixth infantry, May, 1808; colonel Fourth, December, 1809; colonel Fifteenth, July, 1812; brigadier-general, March, 1813. Killed April 27, 1813, at York, Canada.

employ of the Northwest Company of Montreal had posts at Sandy lake, Leech lake and other points; and from a staff at each point floated the flag of Great Britain. Soon after Pike's visit difficulties arose with Great Britain, and the region, although owned by the United States, was under the complete control of foreigners.

When war was declared, the traders fought against the United States, and the Sioux chief, Petit Corbeau, whose village was at the great marsh, now become a suburb of the city of St. Paul, was active against the Americans, although his name was attached to the treaty by which the land upon which Fort Snelling is situated was granted. Joseph Renville, who had been Pike's interpreter, was also found upon the side of the enemy, soliciting allies for the Sioux. Captain T. G. Anderson, in command of British troops in September, 1814, in his journal, under date of the twenty-eighth of September, mentioned that, at eleven o'clock in the morning, Petit Corbeau, the Sioux chief, had arrived with one hundred young men and given assurance of his fidelity to the British, and promised that with his warriors he would exterminate all Indians who adhered to the Americans.

Peace was declared in 1815 between Great Britain and the United States, and in 1817 Major Stephen H. Long,*

* Stephen Harriman Long, born at Hopkinton, New Hampshire, in 1784, and in 1800 graduated at Dartmouth. For a period he was a teacher, and in 1814 entered the army as second lieutenant of engineers. Major in 1816, and in 1823 commanded an expedition to the Lake of the Woods, by way of Fort Snelling. Brevet lieutenant-colonel, 1826, and major of topographical engineers, and in 1861 the chief, with rank of colonel. In 1863 he was retired and died at Alton, Illinois.

topographical engineer of the army, in a six-oared skiff visited the site which Pike had obtained for military purposes. He arrived on the sixteenth of July, and in his journal, first published by the Minnesota Historical society, writes of "a high point of land elevated about one hundred and twenty feet above the water and fronting immediately on the Mississippi. The point is formed by the bluffs of the two rivers intercepting each other. A military work of considerable magnitude might be constructed on the point."

Never had so much bustle been seen among the *voyageurs* and half-breeds at Prairie du Chien as in the summer of 1819, caused by the hamlet being a temporary resting place for an expedition to build a military post at the site selected by Pike and described by Long.

Major-General Jacob Brown, as early as the tenth of February, 1819, issued the following order:

Major-General Macomb, commander of the Fifth Military department, will, without delay, concentrate at Detroit the Fifth regiment of infantry, excepting the recruits otherwise directed by the general order herewith transmitted. As soon as the navigation of the lakes will admit, he will cause the regiment to be transported to Fort Howard, from thence by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to Prairie du Chien, and after detaching a sufficient number of companies to garrison Forts Crawford and Armstrong, the remainder will proceed to the mouth of the River St. Peter's, where they will establish a post, at which the headquarters of the regiment will be located. The regiment, previous to its departure, will receive the necessary supplies of clothing, provisions, arms and ammunition. Immediate application will be made to Brigadier-General Jesup, quartermaster-general, for funds necessary to execute the movements required by this order.

On the thirteenth of April General

Macomb ordered Colonel Leavenworth,* without delay, to prepare his regiment to move to the new post on the Upper Mississippi.

At this period Prairie du Chien was only a rendezvous for traders, where their wives, generally Indian women or half-breeds, purchased after the Indian method, resided while they were at their remote posts during the winter months, trading for furs. There were forty or fifty houses scattered over the prairie above the junction of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. Almost all were built by planting posts in the

ground with grooves, so that the sides could be filled with split timber or round poles and then plastered over with mud, whitewashed, and the roof of bark, or shingles split from oak logs.

The leading trader there was a Scotchman named James Aird,† who for many years had traded with the Sioux of Minnesota, while the most reckless was a Canadian Frenchman, Joseph Rolette, who was ever a law unto himself. He claimed to have been as a boy intended for the Roman Catholic priesthood, but came into the country as the clerk of Murdoch Cameron, a trader who died and was buried on the banks of the Minnesota river. Among the soldiery who attacked, in 1814, the American stockade at this point appear the names of Colin Campbell, Louis Provencalle, J. B. Faribault, Augustine Rocque, Michael Brisbois and Joseph Rolette. The last acted as contractor and sutler. Among the military orders which have been preserved he is censured for selling rum to the troops—a business which he had learned while trading with the Indians. The earliest Anglo-American settler was Henry M. Fisher, with whom Lieutenant Z. M. Pike, in 1805, had interviews, and his beautiful young daughter became the last wife of Rolette.‡

In June, 1818, one Willard Keyes opened a school at Prairie du Chien, and had about thirty scholars, and boarded

* Henry Leavenworth, born in 1783, in Connecticut, was a lawyer in early life, at Delhi, New York. In 1813 he became a major in the army and distinguished himself in 1814 at the battles of Chippewa and Niagara Falls. At the latter he was severely wounded. In 1818 he was made lieutenant-colonel of the Fifth infantry, and in December, 1825, colonel of the Third infantry. He was the founder of Fort Leavenworth. On July 21, 1834, he died at Cross Timbers, in the Southwestern territory. At a meeting of the officers stationed at Fort Jesup, Louisiana, on the eleventh day of August, 1834, resolutions were passed expressive of their high esteem for the deceased, sympathy with the widow and orphan daughter, and a desire that the officers at Fort Towson would co-operate in removing his remains to Delhi, New York, and in erecting a monument. In the cemetery of this town, where he had, when young, been a lawyer, is a broken marble column; on one side of the pedestal is the inscription: "In memory of Henry Leavenworth, Colonel of the Third United States Infantry and Brigadier-General in Army."

On the second side: "Born at New Haven, Connecticut, December 10, 1783. Died in the service of his country near the False Washita, July 21, 1834."

On third side: "For his civic virtues his fellow-citizens of Delaware county honored him with a seat in the legislature of New York. The fields of Chippewa, Niagara, Arickaree, established his fame."

On fourth side: "As a testimonial to his public and private worth, his regiment have erected this monument."

† James Aird became the first agent of the American Fur company, and in February, 1821, died at Prairie du Chien.

‡ Rolette died in 1841, and his widow married a former clerk of her husband, Hercules L. Dousman.

with J. B. Faribault and his wife Pelagie, a mixed blood.

Towards the close of June troops of the Fifth regiment began to arrive for the contemplated movement to the Upper Mississippi. From week to week boats loaded with ordnance, provisions and other military supplies, made their appearance. On the fifth of July Major Thomas Forsyth* came up from St. Louis in a keel-boat with goods valued at two thousand dollars to be distributed among the Sioux in accordance with the agreement made by Lieutenant Z. M. Pike fourteen years before.

The wives of Captain Gooding and of Lieutenant Nathan Clark† had dared the hardships of the wilderness and accompanied their husbands. Charlotte Clark was the daughter of Thomas Seymour, a lawyer in Hartford, Connecticut, accustomed to the best people and influences of that old place, and her grandmother was the sister of Colonel William Ledyard, the heroic commander who lost his life at Fort Griswold during the War of the Revolution, and to whose memory a monument stands at New London, Connecticut.

* Thomas Forsyth was born in 1771 at Detroit. His father, an Irishman, had served under Wolf at Quebec in 1759. As early as 1798 Thomas Forsyth was an Indian trader. In 1812 he was acting Indian agent at Peoria, Illinois. He was for a period agent for the Sauks and Foxes, and died October 29, 1833, at St. Louis, Missouri.

† Nathan Clark, a native of Connecticut, served in the War of 1812-15. He was commissioned May, 1815, second lieutenant; March, 1817, first lieutenant; assistant commissary of subsistence, March, 1819; captain in June, 1824, and died in February, 1836, at Fort Winnebago.

Scarcely had the troops reached the mouth of the Ouisconsin river, as Wisconsin was then written, when Mrs. Clark gave birth to a girl. The officers were attached to the gentle and refined wife who had maintained cheerfulness amid discouragements, and learning that the babe's first name was to be that of its mother, Charlotte, asked to give her a middle name, Onisconsin, which was accepted. The babe still lives, a resident of the city of Minneapolis, the honored wife of a modest soldier, a graduate of West Point, who commanded the Second Minnesota regiment of volunteers in the successful charge at Mill Springs, Kentucky, during the War for the Union, and was made brigadier-general and major-general of volunteers—Horatio P. Van Cleave.‡

It was not until Sunday, the eighth of August, that Colonel Leavenworth was prepared to proceed to the mouth of the Minnesota, or St. Peter river, as it was then called. Never had so large a flotilla left Prairie du Chien. There were the colonel's barge, two large keel-boats loaded with military stores, and fourteen bateaux, and the entire force consisted of ninety-eight soldiers, about twenty men and the officers. When

‡ H. P. Van Cleave, son of John Van Cleave, a physician, was born in 1809 at Princeton, New Jersey. For a time he was a student at Princeton, and then entered West Point in 1827; second lieutenant in Fifth infantry, 1831. Resigned in 1839 and became a civil engineer. In 1861 was a resident of Minnesota and commissioned as colonel of Second Minnesota volunteers. In 1862 was brigadier-general, and wounded at battle of Stone river. In 1865 major-general of volunteers and is living, June, 1883, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

they reached the Upper Iowa river on the following Tuesday, they found at its mouth a distinguished Sioux chief, who had remained faithful to the Americans, while other chiefs of his tribe had proved faithless. He had but one eye, and was one of the signers of the agreement made in 1805 for a military site by Lieutenant Pike. His Indian name was Tah-mah-hah, of Red Wing's band; by the French he was called L'Original Levé, the Rising Moose. He was on the American gunboat *Governor Clarke* during the fight with the British. After the American Fort Shelby at Prairie du Chien had, in 1814, surrendered, he came in this boat to St. Louis, and was employed to ascend the Missouri as far as the James river, and then visit the Sioux and enlist them in favor of the United States. In time he again reached Prairie du Chien, and was arrested by Dickson, a British officer, and placed in confinement. He was at length liberated, and passed the winter of 1815 with his people. In May, 1815, the British evacuated their post at Prairie du Chien and fired the fort with an American flag flying, but this faithful Sioux, who happened to be there, rushed in and saved the colors from burning. He died in Minnesota in 1863, more than eighty years of age, and it was with pride he used to exhibit the following certificate,* given by Governor William Clarke† of Missouri, superintendent of Indian affairs :

* The original is in the Minnesota Historical society rooms at the capital, St. Paul.

† William Clarke, born in Virginia in 1770, and by

In consideration of the fidelity, zeal and attachment testified by Tar-mah-hah of the Red Wing's band of Sioux to the government of the United States, and by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, do hereby confirm the said Tar-mah-hah as chief in said band of Sioux aforesaid, having bestowed on him the small-sized medal, wishing all and singular the Indians, inhabitants thereof, to obey him as a chief, and the officers and others in the service of the United States to treat him accordingly.

On the twenty-first of August Colonel Leavenworth reached the village of the Little Crow at the marsh on the east side of the Mississippi, now a suburb of the city of St. Paul, who had, in the last war with Great Britain, been conspicuous in hostility toward all citizens of the United States. He acknowledged the cession of the land for a military post to Lieutenant Pike and received a present. On Monday, the twenty-third of August, all of the boats of the expedition reached the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and the next day Colonel Leavenworth selected for a cantonment a place on the lower bank of the Minnesota, not far from the railroad bridge, in the hamlet of Mendota. In about a week some officers came up in boats with one hundred and twenty more soldiers.

On Saturday, the twenty-eighth of August, a party made a visit to the Falls of St. Anthony in one of the boats. It was composed of Colonel

his friend, President Jefferson, made second lieutenant of artillery. In 1804, with Captain Lewis, went on an expedition to the Pacific ocean. In 1813 appointed governor of Missouri territory; in 1822 superintendent of Indian affairs. Died in 1838.

Leavenworth, Major Vose,* Surgeon Purcell,† Lieutenant Clark, the wife of Captain Gooding‡ and Major Thomas Forsyth of the Indian department. The boat could only advance within one mile of the falls, owing to the rapids, and from thence they walked. The water being low, some of the company walked from the west side over the ledge to the island dividing the falls, but found the water on the other side of the island too deep to reach the northeast bank of the river. Early in September one hundred and twenty-nine soldiers arrived at the cantonment.

While huts were being erected for the troops, the wife of Lieutenant Clark, with her young infant, lived on a keel-boat, but in a few weeks moved into a log cabin daubed with clay. While the first winter was very severe, the officers were active and cheerful, although the troops suffered from scurvy. Ex-Governor H. H. Sibley, who came to Mendota in 1834 as agent for the American Fur company, men-

* Josiah H. Vose, born in Massachusetts, and in the War of 1812-15. Captain of Fifth infantry, 1815; major, December 31, 1820; lieutenant-colonel of the Third infantry, 1830; colonel of Fourth infantry, 1832; died July 15, 1845, at New Orleans barracks.

† Edward Purcell was a Virginian, and during the War of 1812-15 was hospital surgeon; April, 1818, surgeon of the Fifth infantry, and died at Fort Snelling on eleventh of January, 1825.

‡ George Gooding, born in Massachusetts, was, in 1808, an ensign of Fourth infantry; wounded November 7, 1811, in battle of Tippecanoe; first lieutenant Fifth infantry, 1815; captain, December, 1820; retired under the law in June, 1821; sutler at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, 1821 to 1827, where he died. His widow married a Mr. Johnson and went to St. Louis.

tions that this disease raged so violently that garrison duty was for a few days suspended, the soldiers who were well being required as nurses for the sick. Some of those who went to bed in fair health were found dead the next morning, and one who was relieved from his turn of sentinel duty and stretched himself upon the bench in the guard-room, four hours later was discovered to be without life.

Colonel Leavenworth was distressed by the condition of the camp, supposed to have been produced by the agents of contractors drawing the brine from the pork barrels to lighten the load, and refilling with fresh water. He sent to Prairie du Chien for vinegar and had the country searched for spruce and other antiscorbutics.

The post school-master, during the first winter, was John Marsh, said to have been a college graduate, and who soon acquired the Sioux language. He became tired of the position of post school-teacher, and making the acquaintance of Lewis Cass, then governor of Michigan, he was first employed by him because of his knowledge of Indian language, and in time was made a justice of the peace and sub-Indian agent at Prairie du Chien. During the Black Hawk war he acted as interpreter for the Sioux.

The first sutler was named Devotion. He arrived toward the close of 1819 at Mud Hen island, the Isle Peleé, above Lake Pepin, where Pierre Le Sueur, in 1695, had erected a fort, and where J. B. Faribault was then trading with the Sioux Indians. A few miles above,

where the city of Hastings is now built, the sutler found a keel-boat of military supplies in charge of Lieutenant Oliver,* which had been detained by the ice and guarded by a few soldiers. The clerk of the sutler was Philander Prescott, the son of a physician, born at Phelpsstown, Ontario county, New York, and then about eighteen years of age. He remained during his life-time more or less identified with Fort Snelling, and in 1863, at the time of the Sioux uprising, although his children had a Sioux mother, was scalped.

In connection with the establishment of a military post, the United States created the first agency for the Sioux. In connection with the fort the government established the first Indian agency in the Valley of the Upper Mississippi. The first agent was Lawrence Taliaferro, born in 1794 in Prince William county, Virginia. At the declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812, with four of his brothers, he entered the army, and was commissioned as lieutenant of the Thirty-fifth United States infantry. At the siege of Fort Erie and at Sackett's Harbor he behaved well, and when the war ended was retained as first lieutenant in Third infantry. In 1816 he was at Fort Dearborn, now in the centre of the city of Chicago. While on furlough, President Monroe, who was his friend, appointed him Indian agent. He proved one of the most efficient officers of the Indian de-

partment. His commission was dated March 27, 1819, and he remained at Fort Snelling and was retained until 1840 by successive Presidents, when, though appointed for the sixth term, he declined longer service.

The first winter the soldiers were occupied in clearing the site of the proposed fortification on the upper bank of the Minnesota river, and in cutting logs in the pine forests of the Valley of Rum river above the Falls of St. Anthony, which were brought down and used in the erection of temporary barracks. During the first year the relations between the Indian agent and Colonel Leavenworth were not clearly defined, and there was some little friction, as the following note from Major Taliaferro indicates, written in July, 1820 :

As it is now understood that I am agent for Indian affairs in this country, and you are about to leave the Upper Mississippi, in all probability, in the course of a month or two, I beg leave to suggest, for the sake of a general understanding with the Indian tribes of this country, that any medals you may possess, by being turned over to me, ceases to be a topic of remark among the different Indian tribes under my direction. I will pass to you any voucher that may be required, and I beg leave to observe that my progress in influence is much injured in consequence of this frequent intercourse with the government.

In May, 1820, the soldiers left the cantonment at Mendota, where they had suffered so much from scurvy, and crossing the Minnesota, encamped near a full, clear spring of water, upon the wide, elevated prairie, just beyond the site of the fort, which was designated as Camp Cold Water. The Indian agency for a time remained at the old cantonment.

* William G. Oliver of Pennsylvania served in the War of 1812-15. Second lieutenant in Fifth infantry in 1818, and left the army in 1821.

There was a surprise in camp on the thirtieth of July, 1820, by the unexpected arrival of Governor Lewis Cass of Michigan and party in birch bark canoes, having reached the Mississippi by way of Lake Superior and Sandy lake and then descended. The officers hunted up their uniforms and dusted them, in order that they might pay a visit of respect, and the following note of the adjutant of the post, which has been preserved, indicates the occasion :

July 30, 1820.

Sir—General Cass is at this place and wishes to see the Indian agent. I send you a coat.

Yours, etc.,

P. R. GREEN,* Adjutant.

Mr. Taliaferro.

An unpleasant affair occurred about this time, which led the agent to write on the third of August to Colonel Leavenworth :

His Excellency Governor Cass, during his visit to this post, remarked to me that the Indians in this quarter were spoiled, and at the same time said they should not be permitted to enter the camp. An unpleasant affair has lately taken place—I mean the stabbing of the old chief, Mahgossan, by his comrade. This was caused, doubtless, by an anxiety to obtain the chief's whiskey. I beg, therefore, that no whiskey whatever be given to any Indian, unless it be through their proper agent. While an overplus of whiskey thwarts the beneficent and humane policy of the government, it entails misery upon the Indians and endangers their lives.

During the first year of the military occupation, two hundred and eighty-three Ojibways, or Chippeways, including women and children, visited the post, and about two thousand Sioux, and the Indian agent distributed among

* Platt R. Green of Pennsylvania was second lieutenant of the Fifth infantry, May, 1815; first lieutenant March, 1820, and died June 30, 1828, at Jefferson barracks, Missouri.

them one hundred and forty-one gallons of "milk," as whiskey was called.

In August Josiah Snelling,† who had been recently promoted to the colonelcy of the Fifth regiment, arrived and relieved Leavenworth. On the tenth of September, under his efficient direction, the corner-stone of the first edifice was laid with appropriate ceremonies. In digging the foundation for the circular stone battery, which, until recently, stood in rear of the commanding officer's quarters, at the foot of a small oak tree, a bottle was picked up and placed in the hands of Colonel Snelling, in which had been placed, in 1805, by Lieutenant Pike, a copy in writing of the agreement by which the Sioux ceded the land to the United States.

The wife of Captain Snelling accompanied him, making the fourth lady in the garrison, and this month her fifth child was born, which, after living thirteen months, expired. The stone which marks the resting-place of the remains of the little one may yet be seen in the military grave-yard. During the summer of 1820 a party of Sisseton Sioux, on the banks of the Missouri river, killed a Canadian, Joseph Andrews, and Isadore Poupon, half-breed, both in the employ of the American Fur company. As soon as Agent Taliaferro was in-

† Josiah Snelling, jr., born in 1782 in Massachusetts; was in 1808 first lieutenant Fourth infantry; captain in June, 1809, and in 1811 at battle of Tippecanoe. In battle at Brownstown in 1812, and for distinguished service made brevet major. In May, 1815, he was retained as lieutenant-colonel, and on June 1, 1819, commissioned as colonel of Fifth infantry. He died on August 20, 1828, in Washington city.

formed, he sent a young Indian to the Sisseton and Wahpayton Sioux, and informed the chiefs that he wished them to visit him. They acceded to the request, and a council was held on the twenty-ninth of September, in the presence of Colonel Snelling. The Indians were informed that two of their number would be detained as hostages until the murderers were delivered, which was displeasing.

Colin Campbell, the interpreter,* was also sent to Big Stone lake to secure the murderers if possible. The result of the visit is seen in the following interesting letter of Colonel Snelling to the secretary of war :

CANTONMENT, ST. PETER'S, }
November 13, 1820. }

SIR :—When I had the honor to address you on the tenth, for the disposition then manifested by the Sussitongs, I had no hope of obtaining the surrender of the murderers of our people on the Missouri, but, contrary to my expectation, one of the murderers and an old chief, self-devoted, in the place of his son, was voluntarily brought in and delivered up yesterday.

The ceremony of delivery was conducted with much solemnity. A procession was formed at some distance from the garrison, and marched to the centre of our parade. It was preceded by a Sussitong bearing the British flag; the murderer and devoted chief followed with their arms pioned, and large splinters of wood thrust through them above the elbows, to indicate, as I understood, their contempt of pain and death.

The relations and friends followed, and on the way, joined them in singing their death-song. When they arrived in front of the guard, the British flag was laid on a fire prepared for the occasion and consumed; the murderer gave up his medal and both the prisoners were surrendered.

The old chief I have detained as a hostage, the murderer I have sent to St. Lewis under a proper

guard for trial, presuming it is a course you will approve.

I am much indebted to Mr. Colin Campbell, the interpreter, for his great exertions in bringing this affair to a speedy issue. The delivery of the murderer is solely to be attributed to his influence over the Sussitongs.

The Indian agent contemplating a visit to Washington with some Sioux chiefs, the following letter, signed by the officers of the post, was drawn up by Colonel Snelling. It reads :

In justice to Lawrence Taliaferro, Esq., Indian agent at this post, we, the undersigned officers of the Fifth regiment, here stationed, have presented him this paper as a token not only of our individual respect and esteem, but as an entire approval of his conduct and deportment as a public agent in this quarter.

Given at St. Peter, this fourth day of October, 1820.

J. Snelling, colonel Fifth infantry; N. Clark, lieutenant, S. Burbank, *a* battalion major; Joseph Hare, *b* lieutenant; David Perry, *c* captain; Edward Purcell, surgeon; G. Gooding, battalion captain; P. R. Green, lieutenant adjutant; J. Plympton, *d* lieutenant; W. G. Camp, *e* lieutenant.

a Sullivan Burbank was born in Massachusetts, and in 1800 was a sergeant-major; was captain at Niagara Falls in July, 1814, and severely wounded. After the war, became major Fifth infantry; lieutenant-colonel in 1836, and in 1839 resigned.

b Joseph Hare of Pennsylvania, second lieutenant of Fifth infantry in 1820, and under an act of congress reducing the army in June, 1821, left the service.

c David Perry of Massachusetts was in the War of 1812-1815, and captain of Fifth infantry in 1815. In April, 1822, he resigned.

d Joseph Plympton was born in 1787 at Sudbury, Massachusetts, and served in War of 1812-15. He was first lieutenant of Fifth infantry in May, 1815; captain in June, 1821; major, 1840; commanded troops in fight with Seminole Indians, Florida, in January, 1842; lieutenant-colonel of Seventh infantry, 1846, and led his regiment at Cerro Gordo and Contreras, Mexico; colonel, 1853, and died in 1860 on Staten Island.

e William G. Camp of Ohio was wounded at Niagara Falls in 1814, and in February, 1818, was made second lieutenant of Fifth infantry, under the Reduction act; left the service in June, 1821.

* Colin, Scott and Duncan Campbell, children of an old trader by an Indian woman, were all employed at different times as interpreters.

quartermaster; R. A. McCabe,^f lieutenant; W. Wilkins,^g lieutenant.

The daughter of Captain Clark, Mrs. H. P. Van Cleve, writes that in 1821 the fort was sufficiently finished to be occupied by the troops, and that her father's quarters were next beyond the steps leading to the commissary's stores, and that there, in that year, her sister Juliet was born. Afterwards Major Garland and Captain Clark were allowed to build two stone residences beyond the gates, which in later years were occupied by the Indian agent and interpreter, but now destroyed.

Early in August a young and intelligent mixed blood, Alexis Bailly—about a quarter century afterwards a member of the first legislature of Minnesota—left the post with the first drove of cattle for Lord Selkirk's settlement.

The next month a party of Sisseton Sioux came to the post, and their spokesman said to the agent:

We are glad to find your door open to-day, my father. The Indians are like the wild dogs of the prairie. When they stop at night, they lie down in the open air and pursue their journey. I applied for the other murderer of the white men of the Missouri, but in bringing him down the fear of being hung induced him to stab and kill himself.

About the middle of October, in the keel-boat *Saucy Jack*, Colonel Snelling,

^fRobert A. McCabe of Pennsylvania was in the War of 1812-15, and was second lieutenant of Fifth infantry, May, 1815, and the next year first lieutenant. In 1824 he was captain; resigned in 1833, and was appointed Indian agent and postmaster at Fort Winnebago. From 1836 to 1845 he was sutler to the troops on Mackinaw island, and before 1845 he died.

^gHenry Wilkins of Pennsylvania left the service in June, 1821, under the act of congress.

Major Taliaferro, Lieutenant Baxley* and the wife of Captain Gooding departed for Prairie du Chien. Captain Gooding, who had been wounded at the battle of Tippecanoe, about this time became the sutler at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien.

The latter part of this year, Laidlaw, superintendent of Lord Selkirk's farm, and Colonel Robert Dickson—also spelled Dixon—arrived at the fort from the Lake Winnipeg region, on their way to Prairie du Chien. Dickson was well educated, of courtly manners and an agreeable companion, yet had conformed to the customs and dress of the savages while living among them, and by an Indian woman had a large family of children. During the War of 1812-15 he was the British superintendent of Indian affairs, and led the Indian allies against the Americans. Dickson came back the next spring with a drove of cattle for Selkirk's settlement, but his cattle were scattered by the Sioux.

On the twenty-eighth of May, 1821, under the guidance of Joseph, the son of Colonel Snelling, the great Yankton chief, Wahnatah, came down from Lacqui-Parle on his first visit to the garrison. In a council held by the Indian agent on the seventh of June, Red Thunder, an old chief from the headwaters of the Minnesota river, was present, and supposed to be eighty years old.

*Joseph M. Baxley of Maryland had been in the War of 1812-15, and made second lieutenant of Fifth infantry in June, 1819; first lieutenant in 1824; captain in March, 1833, and in April, 1836, he resigned.

The great Ojibway chief of the Pillager band, Flat Mouth, did not pay his first visit to the agent and Colonel Snelling until the twenty-ninth of August, and more than a hundred of his braves accompanied him. He said, "I came down to-day and you must not think hard of me that I came into your house wearing a red coat. I have been a long time acquainted with the British, but this day I have a wish to quit them. Put something on me to make me your child." He gave up two British flags, and received, among other presents, a large American flag and four gallons of whiskey.

A mill was erected at the Falls of St. Anthony in the autumn of 1821, under the supervision of Lieutenant McCabe, for sawing lumber, but in 1823 was altered so as to grind flour. It stood where is now one of the great flour-mills of the city of Minneapolis. The history of the first mill in Minnesota is worthy of preservation. General Gibson, under date of August 5, 1823, wrote to Lieutenant Clark, then commissary at the fort :

From a letter addressed by Colonel Snelling to the quartermaster-general, dated the second of April, I learned that a large quantity of wheat would be raised this summer. The assistant commissary of subsistence at St. Louis has been instructed to forward sickles and a pair of mill-stones to St. Peter's. If any flour is manufactured from the wheat raised, be pleased to let me know as early as practicable, that I may deduct the quantity manufactured at the post from the quantity advertised to be contracted for.

In another letter he writes :

Below you will find the amount charged on the books against the garrison at Fort St. Anthony for certain articles, and forwarded for the use of the

troops at that post, which you will deduct from the payment to me made for flour raised, and turned over to you for issue :

One pair buhr mill-stones	\$250 11
Three hundred and eighty-seven pounds plaster of Paris	20 22
Two dozen sickles.	18 00
Total.....	\$288 33

Upon the nineteenth of January, 1824, he again writes :

The mode suggested by Colonel Snelling of fixing the price to be paid the troops for flour furnished by them, is deemed equitable and just. You will accordingly pay for the flour \$3.33 per barrel.

Lieutenant William Alexander* was in 1823 sent with fourteen soldiers to mark a road to Prairie du Chien, on the west side of the Mississippi, and blaze the trees.

As Colonel Snelling, on the night of the twentieth of September, 1822, was crossing the parade from the sutler's store to his quarters, he was startled by a meteor moving from northwest to southeast at an angle of about fifty degrees above the horizon. It struck the ground with a sound like a spent shell. He hurried to the sentinel at the corner of the store and found him agitated. He told the colonel that a large ball of fire had passed near him and disappeared in the bottom-lands of the Minnesota river. Other sentinels confirmed his description ; but the next morning the marshy land was examined, but no traces of meteoric stone were discovered. The thermometer at nine o'clock that night was at fifty degrees ;

* William Alexander of Tennessee was second lieutenant in October, 1820 ; first lieutenant in 1825 ; captain in February, 1836, and in October, 1838, died at St. Louis, Missouri.

wind from the northwest, light and fresh, and the weather clear.

As the Mohammedans begin their era from the hegira or flight of their prophet to Medina, so the traders and *voyageurs* of the Upper Mississippi computed from the arrival of the first steamboat at the fort.

During the winter of 1823 Major Taliaferro had been in Washington on Indian business, and on his return in March, while at a Pittsburgh hotel, received a note from G. C. Beltrami, a tall, distinguished and well-educated Italian exile, asking permission to travel with him to the Indian country, which was granted.

Arriving at St. Louis, they embarked on the steamboat *Virginia*, which had been built at Pittsburgh. The boat was one hundred feet long, twenty-two in width, drew six feet of water and was commanded by Captain Crawford.

On the tenth of May, laden with military supplies, it reached the mouth of the St. Peter, now Minnesota river. Among the passengers were Major Biddle,* Lieutenant Russell,† Assistant Surgeon Craig,‡ As the boat neared the landing at the fort, on the tenth of

* Major Biddle of Pennsylvania, a brave officer in the War of 1812-1815. Pay-master in August, 1820, and in 1831 fell in a duel at St. Louis, Missouri.

† John B. F. Russell of Massachusetts, a cadet in May, 1814; second lieutenant, Fifth infantry, May, 1821; first lieutenant, November, 1821; captain April, 1830; resigned in June, 1837.

‡ Presley H. Craig of Pennsylvania had been a surgeon in War of 1812-1815; commissioned in May, 1821, as assistant surgeon; in July, 1832, surgeon; medical director of General Zachary Taylor's army in Mexico, 1846 to 1848.

May, the Sioux beheld it with speechless wonder, supposing it was some enormous water-spirit coughing, puffing out hot breath and splashing water in every direction. When the plank was thrown ashore and it began to blow off steam, mothers, forgetting their children, with streaming hair, sought hiding-places, and warriors, renouncing their stoicism, scampered away like affrighted deer. On the twelfth of the month the *Virginia* began the return voyage.

In 1823 some Sawks and Foxes had taken a woman of the Yankton Sioux prisoner, and carried her to their village near the Dubuque lead mines. The Indian agent left the fort with Alexander Faribault, the son of the old trader, and a party of Sioux braves, determined to rescue the captive. It was a dangerous but successful trip. The woman was obtained and brought up to the fort and in time sent to her family, who dwelt in the Valley of the Des Moines river.

After the Indian agency was established at the post no one could trade with the Indians unless licensed, and among the authorized traders in 1823 were Duncan Campbell, Ezekiel Lockwood, Daniel M. Whitney, Alexander Faribault and Joseph Snelling.

General Winfield Scott made a visit of inspection, and at his suggestion the name of the post, which had been Fort St. Anthony, was changed to Fort Snelling. In his report to the secretary of war he wrote:

This work, of which the war department is in possession of a plan, reflects the highest credit on Colonel Snelling, his officers and men, the defenses and, for the most part, the public store-houses, shops

and quarters being constructed of stone. The whole is likely to endure as long as the post shall remain a frontier one. The cost of erection to the government has been the amount paid for tools and iron, and the *per diem* paid to soldiers employed as mechanics.

I write to suggest to the general-in-chief, and through him to the war department, the propriety of calling this work Fort Snelling, as a just compliment to the meritorious officer under whom it has been erected.

The present name, [Fort St. Anthony] is foreign to all our associations, and is, besides, geographically incorrect, as the work stands at the junction of the Mississippi and St. Peter [Minnesota] rivers, eight miles below the great Falls of the Mississippi, called after St. Anthony.

About the year 1824 a party of dispirited colonists of Lord Selkirk's settlement, while on their way to Fort Snelling, were met and slaughtered by some Sioux, except two brothers, John and Andrew Tully, who were made captives. Colonel Snelling sent some troops and had the lads rescued. The wife of the colonel took charge of John, who died at the fort, and the wife of Captain Clark looked after Andrew. The latter in time became an inmate of the Orphan asylum of New York city and in manhood a respectable citizen of Brooklyn.

During the last months of 1825, in consequence of the absence of Colonel Snelling on furlough, Lieutenant-Colonel Willoughby Morgan,^a a native of Virginia, was in command, who restored the strict military discipline which had been abated in consequence of so many of the soldiers acting as artificers in the erection of the build-

ings of the fort. The officers of the post on the first of January, 1826, were Major T. Hamilton,^b Captain J. Plympton, Captain Wilcox,^c Captain N. Clark, Lieutenant J. B. Russell, Adjutant P. R. Green, Lieutenant A. Johnston,^d Surgeon B. F. Harney,^e Assistant Surgeon R. Wood,^f Lieutenant J. M. Baxley, Lieutenant D. Hunter,^g Lieutenant St. Clair Denny,^h Lieutenant W. Alexander, Lieutenant D. W. Allanson.ⁱ

^b Thomas Hamilton had been a sergeant, and in 1806 was ensign of First infantry; second lieutenant, 1807; first lieutenant, 1808. Defended Fort Madison, Illinois, in September, 1812, for four days against the Indians. Captain in Fifth infantry in 1823, and in 1824 resigned.

^c De Lafayette Wilcox rose from the ranks. Ensign in 1813, second lieutenant in 1814, and wounded at siege of Fort Erie. Captain in Fifth infantry, April, 1822; died January, 1842, at Palatka, Florida.

^d Alexander Johnston of Pennsylvania, cadet, 1820; second lieutenant, Fifth infantry, June, 1824; first lieutenant, 1828; captain, 1836; died in 1845 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

^e Surgeon Benjamin F. Harney served in the War of 1812-15, and in 1847 was wounded in Mexico while attached to the command of Colonel J. S. McIntosh.

^f Roger C. Wood of Rhode Island was appointed assistant surgeon in May, 1825; surgeon in July, 1830. In 1829 he married, at Prairie du Chien, a daughter of Colonel Zachary Taylor, afterwards President of the United States. During the war to preserve the Union he was the assistant surgeon-general of the United States.

^g David Hunter was born in 1803 in the District of Columbia; cadet in 1818; second lieutenant, Fifth infantry, 1822; first lieutenant, 1828; captain First dragoons, March, 1833. Resigned in July, 1836. Pay-master in 1842. At Bull Run battle, July, 1861, commanded a division of troops. In 1866 retired, and in 1887 died in Washington, District of Columbia.

^h St. Clair Denny of Pennsylvania was a cadet in 1818; second lieutenant, Fifth infantry, 1822; first lieutenant, 1827; captain in 1830, and resigned in 1839. In 1841 he was made pay-master.

ⁱ Dudley W. Allanson, a cadet in 1818; second lieutenant, Fifth infantry, May, 1824, and in September, 1827, resigned.

^a Willoughby Morgan of Virginia, in the War of 1812-15, and in October, 1821, lieutenant-colonel of the Fifth infantry; colonel of First infantry in April, 1830, and died April 23, 1832, at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien.

The third steamboat that ever brought supplies to the west arrived on the second of April, 1825; was the *Rufus Putnam*, in charge of Captain Bates. Four weeks later she arrived again with goods for the Columbia Fur company.

The mail in winter was usually carried by soldiers to Prairie du Chien. On the twenty-sixth of January, 1826, there was a pleasant excitement caused by the return from furlough of Lieutenants Baxley and Russell, bringing the first mail received in five months.

The months of February and March, 1826, were very severe. Snow fell to the depth of two or three feet, and there was great suffering among the Indians. Thirty lodges of Sisseton Sioux were overtaken by a blinding storm, which continued for a day or two, and as the party grew weak for the want of food, the stronger men on snow-shoes walked a hundred miles to the nearest trading-post, which, when almost dead, they reached. Four Canadians were sent with supplies, and upon reaching the encampment were horrified at finding the survivors eating the corpses of their relatives.

Surgeon Edward Purcell died on the eleventh of January, 1825, the first officer who had expired at the post. The little son of Adjutant Green, Melancthon Snelling, had been a great favorite in the garrison, and on Thursday, the twenty-third of March, 1826, he was buried with impressive ceremonies. The entire garrison attended his funeral, and bore his remains to the grave, preceded by the band playing the "Dead March."

A Pandora box was opened in 1826

and dissensions prevailed. One young officer, a graduate of West Point, fought a duel with and slightly wounded the colonel's son Joseph. At the trial of the lieutenant for violating the articles of war, he objected to the testimony of Lieutenant Alexander, a native of Tennessee, on the ground that he was an infidel. Alexander was incensed, challenged Lieutenant Hunter, and on the sixth of February they fought a duel, resulting only in slight injuries to their clothing. Two days after there was a court-martial for the trial of Lieutenant Andrews.* It is said that Hunter also challenged the commanding officer, Inspector-General Gaines after this visited the post, and in his report wrote:

A defect in the discipline of this regiment has appeared in the character of certain personal controversies between the colonel and several of his young officers, the particulars of which I forbear to enter into, assured as I am that they will be developed in the proceedings of a general court-martial ordered for the trial of Lieutenant Hunter and other officers at Jefferson barracks. From a conversation with the colonel, I can have no doubt that he has erred in the course pursued by him in reference to some of the controversies, inasmuch as he has intimated to his officers his willingness to sanction in certain cases, and even to participate in personal conflicts, contrary to the Twenty-fifth article of war.

The spring of 1826 was very cold, and on the twentieth of March snow fell to the depth of eighteen inches. On the fifth of April there was another snow-storm, and as late as the tenth the thermometer was four degrees below zero. The ice began to move on the twenty-

* Phineas Andrews was a good soldier in the War of 1812-1815; a native of Connecticut; second lieutenant Fifth infantry in October, 1820, and in October, 1826, died.

first, and the river after this for several days was twenty feet above low water mark.

On the second of May, to the joy of everyone in the fort, the steamboat *St. Lawrence*, Captain Reeder, arrived, and he invited the officers and their families to make a trip toward the Falls of St. Anthony. While on board they enjoyed music and dancing, but when within three and a half miles of the falls, the current was so strong and the channel so filled with rocks that the boat turned round and came back to the post.

In the autumn of 1826 a small party of Ojibways (Chippeways), while on a visit to the Indian agent, ventured to the trading-post of the Columbia Fur company, on the bank of the Minnesota river, about two miles distant. They discovered that the Sioux were not friendly and asked two white men to go back with them to the fort. As they passed a copse three Sioux jumped up and discharged their guns, killing one of the Ojibways. On the twenty-eighth of May, 1827, the Ojibway chief at Sandy lake, Kee-wee-zais-hish, called by the English Flat Mouth, with seven warriors and a number of women and children, arrived about sunrise at Fort Snelling, and asked protection. They were told that as long as they remained under the United States flag they were secure, and they pitched their tents near the high stone walls of the fort.

During the afternoon they were visited by some Sioux from a neighboring village, who were cordially received and feasted. That night some officers were

spending a pleasant evening at the quarters of Captain Clark, which was one of the stone houses which used to stand a little distance beyond the walls of the fort. As Captain Cruger was walking on the porch he was startled by the whizzing of a bullet, and then rapid firing.

Notwithstanding the friendly professions, the Sioux, upon leaving the Ojibway tents, had fired upon their entertainers, and ran off, whooping like demons. The terrified Ojibways ran to the gates of the fort. Four of their number had been killed and six wounded, one of whom was a little daughter of Flat Mouth, seven years of age, shot through both thighs. Surgeon McMahon made every effort to save her life, but without avail. Early the next morning Captain Clark, with a detachment of soldiers, proceeded to arrest the murderers. Upon the prairie, not far distant, thirty-two Sioux were captured and brought to the fort. Colonel Snelling ordered the prisoners to be brought before the Ojibways, and two were recognized as among the assailants of the last night, and delivered to the Ojibways to be dealt with according to their usages. The captives were led out on the prairie in front of the gate of the fort, and were told to run for their lives, and as they ran the Ojibways fired and they fell lifeless. Then the hideousness of the savage was manifested. Women and children leaped for joy, and placing their fingers in the bullet holes of their dead foes, licked them with delight. The men wrenched the scalps from the bodies and muti-

lated them in a horrible manner. The same day a deputation of Sioux visited Colonel Snelling, regretting the violence done by their young men, and expressing their desire to deliver up the ring-leaders.

At the appointed time a son of Flat Mouth, at the head of the visiting Ojibways, escorted by soldiers of the Fifth infantry, marched out to meet the Sioux deputation, who, with much solemnity, delivered two more of the assailants. One was fearless, and with firmness stripped himself of his clothing and trinkets, and distributed them. The other was downcast and begged for life. They were received by the Ojibways and also allowed to run for life, and as they ran were pierced with bullets and soon were lifeless. Their bodies were then dragged to and thrown over the high bluffs into the Mississippi river.

In October, 1826, the secretary of war ordered all the troops at Fort Crawford,* Prairie du Chien, to Fort Snelling, and two Winnebagoes held as hostages for the delivery of the murderers of Methode, a *voyageur*, who had been killed at the mouth of Yellow river, a short distance above Prairie du Chien. After the execution of the Sioux at Fort Snelling in May, 1827, some revengeful members of the tribe went to the Winnebago village, where is now the city of La Crosse, and to gain their sympathy falsely said that the members of their tribe kept as hostages had been put to death. On the twelfth of June, 1827, two keel-boats, the *General Ashley* and *O. H. Perry*, under the direction of

* John Marsh was left in charge of the fort.

Allen F. Lindsey, a brave Kentuckian, left Prairie du Chien with military supplies for Fort Snelling. There were on the boats, constructed like modern canal-boats, thirty-two men, including Joseph, the son of Colonel Snelling, but only three guns. They passed the Winnebago village at La Crosse, and some Indians came in their canoes and sold fish and venison to the crew, but showed no ill-feeling. From thence they sailed for the prairie on the other side of the river, a few miles beyond where resided Wapashah's band of Sioux, now the site of the city of Winona. When they arrived there was a lull of the wind, and the Sioux ordered them to stop. Soon both boats swarmed with warriors with streaked blankets and faces painted black. They refused to shake hands and were sullen in their bearing. Lindsey, advised by Snelling, saw the importance of pushing into the stream, and with a firm voice told the savages they must leave the boat. Intimidated by his bold demeanor, they departed.

At other points, as they ascended, the Sioux showed ill-will. Colonel Snelling, anticipating danger when the boats were ready to return, allowed his son to be a passenger, and each one of the crew was furnished with a musket and a keg of ball cartridges placed at their disposal.

Fifteen days after Lindsey left Prairie du Chien, a man named Gagnier, whose father was a Frenchman and mother a Negress, who lived on a farm about three miles from the hamlet, was shot by Red Bird, a Winnebago chief, and three companions, and fled to an en-

campment of their tribe near the Bad Axe river.

In descending the river Lindsey and his boats passed Wapashah's village without difficulty, and during the night of the twenty-ninth of June the *Perry*, in charge of Benjamin Thaw, gained on the *Ashley*, and the next day was several hours in advance.

As they approached the Bad Axe river, sixteen men were on deck. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon, and when about thirty yards from the shore, they were startled by the war-whoop and the whizzing of rifle-balls, and one of the crew was killed, a Negro boy named Peter. A second volley soon came and all escaped but one. An American named Stewart had risen from a reclining position and pushed his musket through a loop-hole, which a Winnebago sharp-shooter seeing, fired and shot him through the heart.

The Indians now appeared in canoes and attempted to board; two were killed and the rest went back to the shore. At length two, in the same canoe, reached, unseen, the rear of the boat and leaped on deck. One seized the long steering oar and the other fired through the deck and severely wounded one of the crew. With the aid of the steering oar they then ran the boat on a sand bar. Through an opening in the boards of the boat one of the boatmen fired and killed one of the assailants. The other held his position and kept on firing, and at length killed Beauchamp, a brave Canadian half-breed. One of the crew, Jack Mandeville, then took aim and

shot the slayer of the Canadian through the head, who fell dead into the river holding his gun.

Mandeville now rallied the panic-stricken crew and soon the Winnebagoes renewed the attack, and the fight lasted for three hours. As soon as it was fairly dark Mandeville jumped into the water, and, followed by four others, amid a shower of bullets, pushed the boat from the sand bar and proceeded on the journey. Lindsey, in the *Ashley*, passed the scene of conflict about midnight, received only one volley and suffered no loss. During the engagement the *O. H. Perry* received six hundred and ninety-three balls. Seven Indians were killed and fourteen wounded. Four of the crew were mortally and two slightly wounded.*

When the boats reached Prairie du Chien the next day, and the inhabitants heard the startling intelligence, they left their houses and farms and fled to the then abandoned Fort Crawford. The men were organized with Thomas McNair as captain and Joseph Brisbois as lieutenant. The fort was repaired and Joseph Snelling placed in command of one of the block-houses. Duncan Graham, the well-known trader, accompanied by an old *voyageur*, crossed the river and hastened to Fort Snelling for aid, and on the ninth of July arrived.

A few days after this, Governor Cass

* For the dates and facts as to the attack on keel-boats, I have chiefly depended upon a narrative in the *Missouri Republican* of August 23, 1827, attested by Joseph Snelling, Allen F. Lindsey and Benjamin Thaw, captain of *O. H. Perry*.

arrived and authorized the militia to be mustered into the service of the United States, and procured subsistence. He then went to Galena and raised another volunteer company. Colonel Snelling, about the same time, started with four companies in keel-boats, and on the seventeenth of July more soldiers from Fort Snelling came, under Major Fowle. Snelling assumed command, and soon discharged the Galena volunteers. While at Prairie du Chien, Lieutenant Smith of the Galena company had a difficulty with Colonel Snelling, and challenged him to fight a duel. Colonel Snelling declined, and ordered the arrest of the bearer of the note. He was brought before the colonel by Smith's associate officer, Lieutenant William S. Hamilton,* and when he assured the colonel that he did not know the contents of the note, he was discharged, and the volunteers returned to Galena heaping maledictions upon Colonel Snelling. The following extracts of a letter of Snelling, dated August 26, to Agent Taliaferro, then on a visit to the Sioux of the Upper Minnesota river, gives some idea of affairs at that period :

Colonel Croghan has been here and departed very well satisfied. Mr. Marsh accompanied him and left a letter for you, which I now send. It seems that Mr. Secretary Barbour took no other notice of your letter than to send it to Governor Cass, and he gave it to Marsh and "so we go."

I have no serious apprehensions for the safety of Fort Crawford, but the reports about were of such

* W. S. Hamilton, son of Major-General Alexander Hamilton, first secretary of the United States treasury, had been a cadet from 1814 to 1817; colonel of volunteers in Black Hawk war, 1832, and died in August, 1850, at Sacramento, California.

an imposing character that I thought it my duty to re-inforce it. If it had fallen for want of aid, I should have lost my military reputation forever. I trust that you will agree with me that Captain Wilcox was a good selection for the command. Wabasha is said to have agreed to join the confederacy if the Sioux of the St. Peter's would do it, and they have declined.

We have no mail nor news. My family is about as usual. Joseph's wound is doing well. Madame desires to be sincerely and cordially remembered to you. Captain Garland is here with a very interesting family. Remember me to Lieutenant Jameson.

Colonel Croghan, inspector-general, after his visit to the fort in August, 1827, reported to the secretary of war :

The main points of defense against an enemy appear in some respects to have been sacrificed in the effort to secure the comfort and convenience of troops in peace. . . . The buildings are too large, too numerous, and extending over a space entirely too great, enclosing a large parade five times greater than is at all desirable in that climate. The buildings for the most part seem well constructed, of good stone and other materials, and they contain every desirable convenience, comfort and security as barracks and store-houses. . . . Much credit is due to Colonel Snelling, his officers and men for their excellent workman ship exhibited in the construction of these barracks and store-houses, but this has been effected too much at the expense of the discipline of the regiment.

During the autumn the Fifth regiment was relieved by a portion of the First. The next year, on the twentieth of August, 1828, Colonel Snelling died in Washington. Major-General Macomb, in an order announcing his death, wrote :

Colonel Snelling joined the army in early youth. In the battle of Tippecanoe he was distinguished for gallantry and good conduct. Subsequently, and during the whole late war with Great Britain, from the battle of Downstown to the termination of the contest, he was actively employed in the field with credit to himself and honor to his country.

Four of Colonel Snelling's sons attained to manhood. William Joseph,

usually called Joseph, after spending three years at West Point, became an Indian trader in Minnesota, and in this article there have been allusions to him. He possessed more than ordinary poetic talent. Near the headwaters of the Minnesota river there are several small lakes, and in this vicinity, the legend of the Sioux declares, was the birth-place of one of their great divinities, Wab-keen-yan—Thunder Bird. Upon this incident he composed a long poem, which has deservedly found a place in Griswold's 'American Poets.' After his father left Fort Snelling, he returned to Boston, and in 1831 published a sharp criticism called 'A Brief and Impartial History of the Life and Actions of Andrew Jackson, President of the United States. By a Free Man.'

A work of great literary ability, 'Tales of the Northwest,' was also published. A caustic satire from his pen was issued, called 'Truth, a Gift for Scribblers,' in which he alluded to N. P. Willis, who, wincing, wrote this lampoon:

"Oh, Snelling Joseph! Thou art like a cur;
I'm told thou once didst hve by hunting fur;
Of bigger dogs thou smell'st, and, in sooth,
Of one extreme perhaps can tell the truth.
'Tis a wise shift and shows thou know'st thy powers,
To leave the Northwest tales and take to smelling
ours."

In 1832 a second edition of 'Truth' appeared with the following pasquinade:

"I live by hunting fur thou say'st, so let it be;
But tell me, Natty! had I hunted thee,
Had not my time been thrown away, young sir,
And eke my powder? Puppies have no fur.

"Our tails? Thou ownest thee to a tail,
I've scann'd thee o'er and o'er,

But, though I gussed the species right,
I was not sure before.

"Our savages, authentic travelers say,
For ritual tools religious homage pay,
Huff't thou been born in wigwag's smoke, and
deem,
Not! thine apotheosis had been certain.

In 1834 Snelling was editor of the *New England Galaxy*. Of a convivial nature, he was his own worst enemy, and died in 1848, while editor of the *Boston Herald*. H. H. Snelling was engaged in business pursuits, in 1858, in New York city. James G. S. Snelling was born at Fort Snelling, and in 1841 entered West Point. In July, 1845, he was assigned as second lieutenant of the Eighth infantry. He received a brevet for gallant conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, and was severely wounded in September, 1847, at Molino del Rey. A fourth son was a physician, and died at Peoria, Illinois, a few years ago.

From the *Wheeling (Virginia) Gazette*, copied into *The Pittsburgh Gazette* of July 27, 1827:

INDIAN HOSTILITIES.—About the first of this month, as the keel-boat *O. H. Perry*, owned by Mr. Robert P. Clarke of this place, was returning from Fort Snelling, whither she had been conveying military stores, the crew were twice attacked by a party of Winnebago Indians. At the second attack the Indians got possession of the boat, but the crew afterwards re-captured her.

In these several engagements a number were killed on both sides.

The clerk of the steamboat *Mexico*, Benjamin Thaw, formerly of Pittsburgh, who was in charge of the keel-boat *O. H. Perry* at the time of the attack, after killing three Indians, was severely wounded. He is now at Hevre river under the care of physicians.*

The men working the lead mines in the vicinity of Hevre river have collected at Galena and are erecting fortifications.

The foregoing particulars were communicated by Governor Cass, at St. Louis, to a gentleman who passed through this place on Wednesday last.

*Mr. Thaw survived his wound, and after a continued active life as steamboat officer on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, he died in Louisville, in 1843, in the thirty-seventh year of his age. He was elder brother of Mr. William Thaw of Pittsburgh.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 014 495 898 6